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BRIEFLY / Nation

Panel cancels Sporkin hearings

The Senate Judiciary Committee yesterday canceled two hearings on the nomination of CIA General Counsel Stanley Sporkin to a post on the federal bench.

A committee spokesman said a closed 2 p.m. hearing that was to have been followed by an open session was canceled as the result of "an objection" from unidentified members of the Senate.

The hearings were canceled under a Senate rule which bars committee hearings from being held two hours after the Senate goes into session unless unanimous consent is granted, according to the spokesman, Mark Goodin. It is designed to prevent hearings from distracting attention from the business of the full Senate.